

## **Sarah Polsley**

Sarah (Powers) Polsley was born July 22, 1821 in Henry Co., Indiana. She died Dec. 11, 1869 in Elizabethtown, Delaware Co., Indiana. She married Jacob Collins Polsley on Feb. 13, 1840. They were the parents of 13 children

J.C. Polsley is Jacob Collins Polsley, the first born son of John Haymond Polsley and Mary Collins. Jacob and his family lived in Elizabethtown, (when it was a town), and he owned and operated a mill in Elizabethtown for 25 years from 1845 until 1870. Even though Joseph Wilson is credited for the establishment of or at least naming Elizabethtown and might have also operated a mill at one time but it was the mill that Jacob Collins Polsley owned and operated beginning in 1845 until 1870 that operated without fail for 25 years.

Family oral history as well as published documentation cites that after Jacob's wife Sarah died in 1869, he closed the mill. Sarah's death was probably the last straw, so to speak, for Jacob, since most of his immediate family (father, brothers and sisters), who would have been his support system during this trying time had already moved westward by 1870. Then his daughter Rebecca died in July 1870 and with four children still to raise, it is understandable that he would want be around his immediate family. It must have seemed to him that there were more Polsley's dead and buried in Indiana in 1870 than were living there.

In March 1870 he sold part of his land holdings in Elizabethtown to Mark Powers (who was the grandson of Elizabeth Wilson, who Elizabethtown was named for) and the rest of his land holdings to John Dunn in November 1870.

He then bought a wagon (prairie Schooner), and in the spring of 1871, loaded up his remaining four children (Mary Almeada, Nancy Clarinda, John William and Ann Ida) and went west, first to Iowa, where his father and some of his brothers and sisters were living. After some time in Iowa he loaded up the wagon again and then he moved on to Nebraska, where he died March 20, 1888.

I don't believe that the mill every operated again after Jacob closed it in 1870. I do believe that the mill he operated was what kept the town going and the decline of Elizabethtown and eventual death of the town might have been a result of that closing. Maybe that is why Jacob Collins Polsley is not noted in the county history about Elizabethtown.